Message Text

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SECRETSEOUL 2187

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR KS KN

SUBJECT: DPRK OBSERVER MISSION REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH

AMBASSADOR SCALI

REF: USUN 1140

1. I RECOMMEND THAT USUN HAVE NO RPT NO DEALINGS AT THIS TIME

WITH NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER MISSION ON MATTER OF

DPRK PEACE AGREEMENT PROPOSAL. ANY MEETING BETWEEN

NORTH KOREANS AND USUN OFFICER, WOULD BE INTERPRETED

AS IMPLICIT USG ACCEPTANCE OF NK EFFORT TO DEAL

DIRECTLY WITH US ON QUESTION INVOLVING SECURITY ON

THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND VITAL INTERESTS OF ROK.

MEETING BETWEEN NK PERMANENT REP AND AMBASSADOR SCALI WOULD ALSO

HAVE BROADER IMPLICATIONS RE USG RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTH.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE ROKG WOULD VIEW DIRECT

USG-NK CONTACT ON PEACE AGREEMENT IN MOST SERIOUS

TERMS. REQUEST BY NK PERMANENT REP FOR MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SCALI TO DISCUSS METHOD OF

FORWARDING LETTER TO US CONGRESS APPEARS SIMPLY

TRANSPARENT EFFORT TO ENTANGLE US IN DIRECT

DISCUSSION ON "PEACE AGREEMENT" IN FASHION WHICH

WOULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR INTERESTS AS WELL AS THOSE

OF ROKG.

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3. IN VIEW ABOVE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY

INFORM ROKG IN NEW YORK AND HERE OF NK APPROACH. WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE TELL ROKS THAT LOW-LEVEL USUN OFFICER WILL SIMPLY RESPOND TO NK APPROACH BY INDICATING THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MEET WITH THEM IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST.

- 4. IN ANY CASE WOULD STRESS THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED NO FURTHER IN THIS AFFAIR WITHOUT TELLING ROKG IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PAST PLEDGES.
- 5. AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, I FEAR THAT ANY USUN DIRECT SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREANS RE PEACE AGREEMENT PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS HERE AND COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE UNC PROBLEM IN MANNER WHICH DOES NOT UNSETTLE SECURITY SITUATION.
- 6. COMING IN CONTEXT OF DIFFICULT DOMESTIC
 SITUATION HERE AND LIKELY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION
 IN OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR KOREA,
 ANY INDICATION THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT A
 DIRECT NORTH KOREAN CONTACT RE ITS PEACE AGREEMENT
 PROPOSAL WOULD BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE
 MISINTERPRETATION. THIS IS NO TIME TO CREATE
 IMPRESSION THAT USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL DIRECTLY
 WITH NORTH KOREANS ON THEIR PEACE AGREEMENT PROPOSAL
 WHICH EXPLICITLY EXCLUDES ROKG ROLE.
- 7. CONSEQUENTLY, WOULD HOPE USUN COULD RECEIVE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID SUSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREANS AND TO AVOID CREATING ANY IMPRESSION WE ARE WILLING TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH NORTH KOREANS ON THEIR PEACE AGREEMENT PROPOSAL. HABIB

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